

## Message Text

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51

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF HK

SUBJ: ICEM REFUGEE LOAN FUND - CHINESE REFUGEES

REF: STATE 40228

1. WE BELIEVE SPECIFIC CASE WHICH CAUSED ICEM QUERY RE EXTENSION OF TRAVEL LOANS FROM HONG KONG BEYOND OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, AND LOANS TO IMMIGRANT VISA HOLDERS IS INDONESIAN OVERSEAS CHINESE FAMILY WITH US CITIZEN BROTHER, WHO OBTAINED 5TH PREFERENCE VISAS. APPLICANT HAD BEEN ASSISTED BY INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR VISA AND, THROUGH THIS CHANNEL, HEARD ABOUT TRAVEL LOAN POSSIBILITY. APPLICANT WAS TOLD HE DID NOT QUALIFY UNDER ICEM FAR EAST LOAN FUND FOR NON-EUROPEAN REFUGEES (FUND REFERRED TO IN REFTEL) BUT HAS BEEN GIVEN TRAVEL FUNDS UNDER "ICEM LOAN FUND FOR REFUGEES OUTSIDE EUROPE." ICEM HONG KONG REPRESENTATIVE INFORMED CONGENOFF THAT THIS FUND HAS BEEN IN OPERATION SINCE MARCH 1973, HAS PROVIDED LOANS TO 112 PERSONS, 85 OF WHOM WERE TRAVELLING TO US, AND THAT HE IS UNCERTAIN OF SOURCE OF MONEY FOR THIS FUND.

2. FACT THAT SEPARATE LOAN FUND ALREADY EXISTS FOR SUCH PEOPLE AND THAT THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE UTILIZATION IN HONG KONG OF SUCH FUND LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT ANY EXTENSION OF USG-FINANCED  
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ICEM LOAN FUND TO IMMIGRANT VISA HOLDERS WOULD NOT FIND MANY

TAKERS IN HONG KONG. QUESTION ALSO ARISES CONCERNING APPROPRIATENESS OF TRAVEL LOAN FUND TO IMMIGRANT VISA HOLDERS ALL OF WHOM HAVE PRESUMABLY SUFFICIENTLY DEMONSTRATED ABILITY UNDER 212(A)(15) OF IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT THAT THEY WILL NOT BECOME PUBLIC CHARGES IN US. IF APPLICANT INDICATED NEED FOR TRAVEL LOAN TO ENTER US, VISA OFFICER WOULD BE FORCED TO CAREFULLY CONSIDER POSSIBILITY THEY WERE INELIGIBLE UNDER THIS SECTION. THUS, SUCH EXTENSION OF TRAVEL LOANS WOULD IN SOME CASES APPEAR TO BE INCONSISTENT WITH US IMMIGRATION LAW.

3. SPECIFIC CASE MENTIONED ABOVE, HOWEVER, DISPROVES THIS THEORY TO SOME EXTENT. APPLICANT AND WIFE BOTH ARE QUALIFIED INDONESIAN-EDUCATED DOCTORS AND HAVE BOTH PASSED ECFMG EXAMINATIONS. SECTION 212(A)(15) SATISFIED BY WIFE'S BROTHER'S AFFIDAVIT INDICATING HIS ANNUAL INCOME APPROXIMATELY \$50,000 AND WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST IN THEIR SUPPORT. APPLICANT, HOWEVER, BELIEVE HE WILL BE ABLE TO SUPPORT HIS ONLY FAMILY ONCE IN US AS WELL AS REPAY TRAVEL LOAN WITHOUT BECOMING UNDULY INDEBTED TO BROTHER-IN-LAW AND FACT OF HIS AND HIS WIFE'S PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUNDS WOULD INDICATE THIS LIKELY CASE.

4. ON BALANCE, WHILE WE WOULD NOT PREDICT A GREAT MANY APPLICANTS AND WOULD NOT WISH TO ENCOURAGE OF EXTENSIVELY PUBLICIZE AVAILABILITY OF TRAVEL LOANS TO IMMIGRANT VISA APPLICANTS, WE BELIEVE AVAILABILITY OF SUCH LOANS FOR EXCEPTIONAL CASES WOULD BE HELPFUL. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT CURRENT USRP PRACTICE SHOULD BE DETERMINING FACTOR. IF SUCH LOANS AVAILABLE THROUGH USRP, WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION CONCERNING MECHANICS OF OPERATION.

5. IF EXTENSION OF TRAVEL LOANS APPROVED, WE AGREE THAT CRITERIA TO DETERMINE REFUGEE STATUS SHOULD BE SAME AS INS APPLIES TO 7TH PREFERENCE CASES AND THAT VOLAGS COULD HANDLE ANY ADDITION WORKLOAD WITH LITTLE PROBLEM.  
ALLEN

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## Message Attributes

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